

News

from the Illinois Commerce Commission

Voice: Springfield, 217.782.5793 Chicago, 312.814.2850 FAX 217.524.0674 BBS 217.782.9233 <http://www.state.il.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2006

Beth Bosch

ICC APPROVES PEOPLES GAS COMPANIES' \$100 MILLION SETTLEMENT OF FUEL CHARGE CASES

The Illinois Commerce Commission Monday agreed to approve a settlement that provides approximately \$100 million in refunds to Chicago and north suburban customers of Peoples Gas Company and North Shore Gas.

The settlement is designed to resolve five years of fuel reconciliation cases, from 2000 to 2004, in which evidence suggested Peoples Gas Company may have overcharged customers for natural gas.

The refund would go to approximately 1 million customers of the Peoples Gas companies. The Commission will determine how those refunds are made.

Peoples Gas developed the settlement in conjunction with the Attorney General and representatives of the city of Chicago, and announced planned to donate a total of \$30 million over six years to the city of Chicago and the Attorney General for use in conservation and weatherization programs for low income households.

Peoples Gas companies also said they would reconnect approximately 12,000 customers who were disconnected for non-payment and stop collection activities on those accounts.

The parties to the settlement will file amendments to the Peoples Gas and North Shore 2001 reconciliation cases, as well as 2002-2004, incorporating settlement terms by March 10. Commission formal approval is expected March 22.

###